

REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-3 and 7-9 are currently pending in the application, of which claim 1 is an independent claim.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. Support for the amendments may be found at least in Figures 3, 4, 5A, and 6B.

Entry of the Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested because entry of Amendment places the present application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, better form for appeal. No new matters are believed to be added by these Amendments. In view of the above amendments and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 10-214614, filed by Inoue Takefumi ("Inoue"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

In order for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) to be proper, a single reference must disclose every claimed feature. To be patentable, a claim need only recite a single novel feature that is not disclosed in the cited reference. Thus, the failure of a cited reference to disclose one or more claimed features renders the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection improper.

Applicant respectfully asserts that Inoue fails to disclose every limitation of claim 1. Claim 1 as amended recites, *inter alia*:

the current interrupter is arranged in a curved portion of the negative electrode lead. (emphasis added)

Inoue fails to disclose at least these features. Specifically, Inoue fails to disclose “a curved portion of the negative electrode lead.” Rather, in Inoue, the negative electrode lead is shown in Figs. 1-3 as a planar lead. Further, the translation of Inoue describes the negative electrode lead as “a long and slender metallic foil.” See Inoue, paragraph [0012]. Inoue therefore fails to disclose that “the current interrupter is arranged in a curved portion of the negative electrode lead.” For at least these reasons, Inoue fails to disclose every limitation of claim 1. Further, since Inoue fails to disclose every limitation of claim 1, Inoue similarly fails to disclose every limitation of claims 2-3 and 7-8, which depend from claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 1. Since none of the other prior art of record discloses or suggests all the features of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and all the claims that depend therefrom are allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Inoue in view of U. S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0171383, filed by Arai, *et al.* (“Arai”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

For at least the reasons asserted above, Inoue fails to disclose every limitation of claim 1. Arai fails to remedy the shortcomings of Inoue. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 9. Further, since none of the other prior art of record, whether taken alone or in any combination, discloses or suggests all the features of claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is allowable at least for its dependence from claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/hae-chan park/

Hae-Chan Park
Reg. No. 50,114

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CUSTOMER NO. 58027
H.C. Park & Associates, PLC
8500 Leesburg Pike
Suite 7500
Vienna, VA 22182
Tel: 703-288-5105
Fax: 703-288-5139
HCP/WMH/alj